JCA-Ch

OFFICIAL - INFORMAL
   CONFIDENTIAL   December 5, 1963

Dear Pete:

    I read your report of the November 19 and November 26 meetings of
the Deputy Political Advisors and noticed that you are discussing the
question of FREE STYLE. The recent autobahn incidents have obviously
led to a certain amount of discontent with this plan. I think, however,
that we should be careful not to reopen this plan lightly or jeopardize
its concept. Although FREE STYLE was obviously not suitable as a follow-
on to the rules of conduct when only one convoy was stuck, we do believe
that assembling FREE STYLE may have served a useful purpose in conveying
to the Soviets our concern. In addition, we do not preclude that the
situation might have developed in such a way as to make the question of
the use of FREE STYLE arise. Having FREE STYLE assembled may also have
helped the British agree to send a convoy, since this was a less unpleasant
alternative than the use of FREE STYLE.

    I think most of us have never had any illusions about FREE STYLE.
It is a limited force with a limited objective and hence limited potential
value. I suspect in any event that the key factor in any decision to use
FREE STYLE will not be the situation which prevails on the autobahn, but
whether governments are prepared to face the consequences of the Soviets
stopping FREE STYLE, such as measures contemplated for Phase II.

    The FREE STYLE plan was put together over a number of years with
great pain and reconciles the divergent views of the various governments
and agencies concerned. If anyone has concrete proposals as to how
FREE STYLE might be improved or proposals for plans which might supplement
FREE STYLE, we would be happy to hear of them. In the meantime, I am sure
that you, Jim Sutterlin, and General Chapman will resist any efforts to
pull the plant up just to see how long the roots are.

                                    Sincerely,

                                          John C. Ausland

CC/Mr. Sutterlin
   General Chapman

Arthur R. Day, Esquire,
     Chief, Political Affairs Section,
          U.S. Mission, Berlin.

                         CONFIDENTIAL